COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Vol. 2, No. 81 October 8, 1966

Details Given on Amendments To Military Medicare Law

Dependents of active duty personnel may obtain outpatient care from civilian sources without first going through military channels under the Military Medical Benefits Amendments of 1966.

The new outpatient care program went into effect Oct. 1 and is expected to benefit an estimated 1.6 million active duty dependents of some 4 million living remote from military medical facilities.

These individuals previously paid all costs when going to civilian sources. Now, the dependent's sponsor pays all charges during a fiscal year until the costs reach $50, then he pays only 20 percent of further costs that year. If the sponsor claims more than one dependent, he pays the first $100 and 20 percent of the remainder that fiscal year.

Once the $50 or $100 total has been reached, the civilian source bills the government for 80 percent of charges thereafter and collects 20 percent from the sponsor.

Most types of outpatient care are authorized. Dental care, however, may be provided only as a necessary adjunct to medical or surgical treatment. Routine physicals and immunizations are limited to dependents preparing to join their sponsors overseas under official orders.

Drug and medicine purchases are limited, except for insulin, to those obtainable by written prescription of a licensed physician or dentist.

Defense Secretary Visits Vietnam

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara was scheduled to depart Washington, D.C., this weekend on a regular visit to South Vietnam to confer with Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge and General William C. Westmoreland, MACV commander.

The secretary will also visit combat units in the field before returning to Washington, Oct. 14.

He will be accompanied by General Earle G. Wheeler, Chairman of the JCS, and Assistant Secretaries of Defense Arthur Sylvester and John T. McNaughton.

It is Secretary McNamara's eighth visit to Vietnam, the first made in 1962. His last visit to the Southeast Asia country was Nov. 28-30, 1965.

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DEFENSE APPOINTMENTS — Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara (right), presents certificates of appointment to Dr. Carl Walske (left), who becomes Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy) and Chairman of the Military Liaison Committee to the Atomic Energy Commission; and to Paul C. Warnke, who becomes General Counsel of the Defense Department.

Household Goods Shipment Weight Allowance Increased

Weight allowances for household goods shipped on Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders have been increased for all eligible enlisted men and officers through the rank of major by DOD's Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee.

Increases ranging from 1,500 to 2,000 pounds were authorized for E-4s (four or more years' service) to E-9. For example, E-4s received an increase from 5,000 to 7,000 pounds under changes to JTR, par. M 8003 as revised.

Officer increases reflected a similar hike, with a 2nd Lt. receiving a 9,500 pound allowance and a major's increased to 11,000 pounds.

Increases will be applicable to all shipments made under orders which are effective on or after Sept. 23, officials said.

Washington Memos

DIA TO CIA transfer was proposed by President Johnson in his late September nomination of VAdm. Rufus L. Taylor to be Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Since June of this year, the admiral has served as Deputy Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. The 56-year-old flag officer, a 1933 Naval Academy graduate, also has been Director of Naval Intelligence in 1963 and served briefly in 1953 with the National Security Agency.

APPOINTED TO A three-year term on the Reserve Forces Policy Board, Major General Roy T. Sessums, USAFR, succeeds Major General Donald S. Dawson, USAFR, whose term has expired. Board, acting through Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower), serves as principal policy adviser to Secretary of Defense on matters pertaining to reserve components.

DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBILITY SHIFT for systems development and program review has been centered with Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics) under Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Logistics Services). Formerly responsibilities were split between two staff offices.

SECOND APOLLO CREW selected by NASA is commanded by astronaut Walter M. Schirra Jr., with Donn F. Eisele as senior pilot and Walter Cunningham as pilot. Astronaut Frank Borman commands backup crew, with Thomas F. Stafford as senior pilot and Michael Collins as pilot. Four astronauts are Air Force officers: Borman, 38, a colonel; Stafford, 36, and Collins, 35, lieutenant colonels; and Eisele, 36, a major. 43-year-old Schirra is a Navy Captain and one of original seven astronauts. Cunningham, 34, is a civilian.

ION SPACE ENGINE is scheduled for testing in 1968 aboard an unmanned NASA satellite mission to evaluate in-flight performance. Ion engine or electric thrusters worked successfully in space for 50 minutes during SERT I ballistic flight from Wallops Island. 1968 flight calls for Ion engine to be in space six months or longer to analyze effects of these thrusters and their electric fields on such components as radio transmitters and solar cell arrays.

TEMPORARILY ENLISTED PROMOTION quota has been released to major Army commanders for October. The authorization is for 32 E-9s; 164 E-8s; 629 E-7s; 2,345 E-6s; 24,237 E-5s; and 74,142 E-4s.

STARLIFTER JET TRANSPORT shown by Lockheed in several foreign countries, including Germany, France, Australia, and New Zealand. The company's plane—a counterpart of the Air Force C-141 all-jet cargo airlifter—demonstrated its capability to use short runways and to carry cargo long distances. One distance cited by Lockheed was 5,388 non-stop from Ft. Worth, Tex., to Munich, Germany.

NEW HELICOPTER ESCAPE system being tested by Navy features jettisoning of rotor blades and parachute descent for fuselage capsule containing crewmen and passengers. Pilot or crew members can activate system, with no actions required of passengers. Testing is being done by Naval Aerospace Recovery Facility at El Centro, Calif.

WINNING FIRST PLACE in this year's Air Force Fire Protection Competition was McChord AFB, Wash., an Air Defense Command installation. Second place went to Alaskan Air Command's Eielson AFB, Alaska, with Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., a SAC base, placing third. Officials noted that all entries highlighted the educational efforts of the base population, inspections to eliminate hazards, training, and fire-safe procedures.

FIRST LIGHT INFANTRY Brigade in American military history, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade (Separate), celebrated its first anniversary in mid-September at Tay Ninh, Vietnam. 196th "Chargers" attached to 25th Division, came to Vietnam during summer via long sealift from Ft. Devens, Mass., through the Panama Canal to Vietnam.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS RECOGNIZING contributions of individuals and major air commands to AF Cost Reducation Program during past year will be presented at Randolph AFB, Tex., Oct. 26, by AF Secretary Harold Brown, and Gen. Bruce K. Holloway, AF Vice Chief of Staff. Ceremony will be highlight of Third Annual AF Cost Reduction Awards Program.

NEW ARPA DIRECTOR named by DOD is 38-year-old Dr. Patrick J. Friel who succeeds Dr. S. J. Rabinowitz as Director, Ballistic Missile Defense, Advanced Research Projects Agency, in the Defense Department. Dr. Friel comes from General Electric where he was manager of Aerospace Physics Laboratory. Dr. Rabinowitz has returned to Columbia University.

WIVES OF SERVICEMEN in Vietnam around the Minneapolis-St. Paul area are putting out a four-page mimeographed newspaper once a month that covers "doings back home," according to American Red Cross. Group is sponsored by ARC Minneapolis-Hennepin County chapter.

ADDITIONAL DUTY as Director, Manned Orbiting Laboratory Program has been assigned to Gen. James Ferguson who recently succeeded Gen. Bernard A. Schriever as Commander, Air Force Systems Command, Andrews AFB, Md.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

Published semi-weekly by Press Division Armed Forces News Bureau, 1117 No. 19th St., Arlington, Va. 22209, a unified activity of the Directorate for Armed Forces Information and Education, OASD(M). This publication contains official information, news and policy, direct from Washington authorized sources. Reproduction of content is authorized. Suggested dateline for materials used is WASHINGTON (AFNB).

Gemini 12 Mission Changes Center on EVA Problems

The nation's next manned space shot—the coming Gemini 12 mission—has been changed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in conjunction with Department of Defense.

NASA announced Sept. 27 that it has revised plans for Gemini 12 extra-vehicular activities (EVA) in order to gather more information concerning the performance of basic tasks by an astronaut outside the spacecraft in orbit.

"The change in plans was made to permit the Gemini 12 EVA to be conducted under conditions which would allow a better time and motion evaluation of the workloads and stresses experienced by an astronaut, the NASA announcement said.

Astronaut Edward White made the original U.S. space walk on Gemini 4. On Gemini 9, astronaut Eugene Cernan terminated EVA early because his workload was heavier and his visor fogged up. Astronaut Michael Collins on the Gemini 10 flight walked over to the Agena target vehicle where he recovered an experiment but he ran short of EVA propellant. On the recent Gemini 11, astronaut Richard Gordon terminated his umbilical EVA exercise early because of fatigue and heavy perspiration.

Because of the EVA changes to the Gemini 12 mission, testing of the Air Force's Astronaut Maneuvering Unit (AMU), which was originally scheduled, cannot be permitted, NASA said.

Air Force Revises Enlisted Promotion Allocation System

Air Force has updated its system for allocating enlisted promotion quotas into a program that in the long run is expected "to increase promotion opportunities in career areas that have experienced the most stringent control."

Endorsed by Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Lt. Gen. Horace M. Wade, Air Force now uses an improved Promotion Management List (PML) that will control imbalances and move the Air Force closer to an "equitable manning" goal in each grade as established by Department of Defense ceiling.

"The Air Force must limit promotions in career fields that have more than their share and allow promotions to be made in fields that are short," officials said.

It was noted that the PML program is aimed at meeting this situation by specifying in allocations to commands the maximum percentage of eligible airmen or NCOs who may be advanced to each grade in each subdivision or Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC).

MINUTEMAN FLAG—Maj. Gen. Victor J. MacLaughlin, commanding general of U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and Ft. Lee, Va., receives Minuteman Flag for excellence in U.S. Savings Bond program participation from Bruce W. Challen, State Director of Savings Bond Division, U.S. Treasury Department. Post achieved required 90 percent participation in Savings Bond Program.

'Instant Replay' TV Techniques Improve Navy's Air Efficiency

Electronic techniques used to give "armchair quarterbacks" instant replays of football plays are also playing a big part for pilots returning to aircraft carriers following strikes against targets in Vietnam.

Explaining a step further on the value of television, Secretary of the Navy Paul H. Nitze told delegates to the annual convention of Radio and Television News Directors Association meeting, "It is not too far in the future that the so-called 'armchair strategist' will be able to watch a war actually being fought from his chair in his living room revetment."

As for television replays, Secretary Nitze said they assist "in keeping our pilots razor sharp and continually coached" on aircraft carrier landings, one of the most exciting maneuvers in naval aviation.

"Flying modern-day jet aircraft is an experience which is unforgiving of errors," the secretary explained, "and each landing is a graduation exercise that must be executed by nothing less than perfection."

Speaking in Chicago, Secretary Nitze noted, "Today it is technically feasible to provide live television coverage of a strike against the Communists in Vietnam from a Seventh Fleet carrier in the South China Sea."

"With the help of television," the secretary continued, "there can be regenerated within the public an awareness of the intimate relationship between our use of the ocean and the security and prosperity of the nation."

SecDef Named Vice Chairman for United Campaign

Defense Secretary McNamara again will serve as Vice Chairman for the federal government during this year's fund raising drive by the United Community Campaigns of America, President Johnson has announced.

"We have a special concern this year for the vital services being given by the Red Cross and the USO in Vietnam and to our military personnel and their dependents all over the world," the President said.

With more than 30,000 voluntary national, state and local health and welfare agencies participating, the United Campaigns fund drive offers the opportunity to contribute to a wide variety of philanthropic organizations through a single appeal.

"We can be proud of the performance of Federal workers who last fall helped these United Campaigns attain a record total of $625 million," Mr. Johnson said.

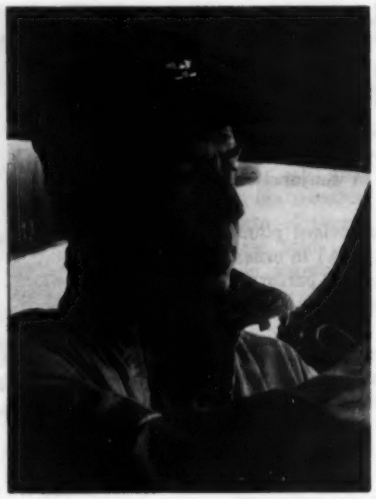
Navy Names Winners In Cartoon Contest

First place winner in the Eleventh All-Navy Cartoon Contest is Gunner's Mate Third Class George L. Bettes, attached to the Naval Station in Trinidad.

Ten winning cartoons were selected from over 300 entries submitted to the Bureau of Naval Personnel by Navy personnel ranging from Seaman to Commander.

Second place, plus first honorable mention, went to Chief Communications Technician William Roger Maul, attached to the Naval Security Group Hq., Washington, D.C.

The Chief of Naval Personnel encourages maximum participation in the contest, "conducted as a means of recognizing those individuals who contribute greatly to the morale of the Navy by their artistic and humorous talents."



NEW SKIPPER — Capt. George C. Talley, Jr., is the new commander of aircraft carrier USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. He took over Aug. 28, while the 63,000-ton warship was on combat operations in the Gulf of Tonkin.

AF Changes Officer Promotion Sequence List

Beginning with the colonel promotion selections released Oct. 6, the Air Force has placed those upgraded on the promotion sequence list by active duty date of rank rather than total commissioned service as used in the past.

As an example, name of an officer with the senior date of rank will head the list and be the first to be promoted, as in the first increment. The junior officer by date of rank on the list will be last, or in the last increment to be promoted.

This new system went in effect with the FY67 temporary promotion programs for majors, lieutenant colonels and colonels.

Officials said the change will preserve the relative seniority enjoyed by officers prior to promotion. Previously a large number of officers holding key positions had to be reassigned to subordinate positions following a promotion cycle.

Army to Award 1,000 ROTC Scholarships in 1967-68

Army will award at least another 1,000 ROTC scholarships beginning with the 1967-68 school year to outstanding high school graduates and to selected college students who have completed two years Army ROTC training.

Four-year scholarships are available to high school graduates, who may apply before graduation. They must, however, reach 17 years of age by Oct. 1, 1967, but be less than 21 on June 30, 1967.

Two-year applicants may apply during their second year of ROTC training, if they are cadets in good standing, and are less than 23 on June 30, 1967.

Additionally, all applicants must be male U. S. citizens meeting prescribed physical standards.

Forms and detailed information on the four-year program may be obtained from the commanding general of the U. S. Army area where the applicant resides, or if overseas, from the major U. S. Army overseas command where the applicant resides.

Students applying for two-year awards will do so with the professor of military science at their present college or university.

DSA Procurement Up $2.7 Billion

Defense Supply Agency procurement for FY66 rose $2.7 billion because of the Southeast Asia military buildup.

The increase from $3 billion during FY65 to $5.7 for FY66 was across-the-board at all of DSA's specialized supply centers.

DSA purchases and distributes to all military services commonly used supplies including food, clothing and textiles, electronic parts, fuel and petroleum products, medical, chemical, industrial, construction and general supplies.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.
Price 5 cents (single copy). Subscription Price: $2.50 per year; $3.25 additional for foreign mailing.

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